

CE 579/PPD 588
INTRODUCTION TO TRANSPORTATION PLANNING LAW
COURSE INFORMATION
FALL 2014

Instructor:

Dana Sherman, Esq. (BA, JD, MBA, MBT, MPA)
Senior Lecturer,
Epstein Dept ISE (since 2007)
Astani Department CEE (since 1979)
Office: KAP
818-881-3738 (tel)
818-881-5580 (fax)
danasher@usc.edu

Catalog: Federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements affecting California transportation systems, including transportation planning and funding law; and government contracting, environmental, and civil rights requirements.

Host Department CE 3 Units

Location: Monday 6:30 to 9:10 p.m. KAP 167

Office hours:

I am on campus Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Make an appointment to see me before or after my classes or telephone me anytime (my office phone is forwarded if I'm not there). Email is very good as I often work late in the evening or weekends. If you send an email, please be relatively specific, including course number and a subject line as I teach 3 courses. If you have a question about a problem describe the problem, not just a problem number.

Prerequisites:

None. It is assumed the students have no prior legal or transportation planning courses. Open to all graduate students and undergraduate students with permission of the instructor.

Texts:

March, CALIFORNIA PUBLIC CONTRACTING LAW. (Required)
ISBN: 9780923956950

Augello. TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS & THE LAW (Required)
ISBN: 9780971523210

Extensive handout materials will be distributed by the instructor as well.

Objectives:

The course is intended to provide students in civil or environmental engineering, public administration, construction and urban planning and development an introduction to the federal and state laws applicable to the field of transportation planning.

The specific course objectives are to enable the student to:

- Understand the basic legal principles of the American system;
- Understand the importance and principles of transportation planning;
- Identify, formulate and understand legal issues of transportation planning;
- Understand the principles of contracts and government contracting;
- Understand transportation financing of public and private projects;
- Gain knowledge of contemporary legal and business issues affecting transportation planning;
- Understand the impact of planning and transportation laws in a social, political and environmental contexts;
- Enable the student to participate as an effective member of multi-disciplinary transportation teams;
- Understand professional ethical issues and responsibilities in transportation planning and engineering;

Course Expectations:

There will be about 50 pages of reading, a homework assignment and a quiz almost every class session. You should be prepared to devote the time necessary to take the course. The course material is cumulative and if you consistently fail to turn in homework on time, not only will you fall behind, but your point total (and hence your grade) will also suffer. No prior knowledge of transportation planning law is expected.

Method of Instruction:

Lecture, class discussion and review of assignments conducted by the instructor will occupy the class period. Students are expected to attend class and be prepared to participate in class discussions and participation will count toward the course grade. The course assistant is responsible for administrative matters only. There will be no separate discussion sections. A 10 minute break will occur midway through the class. The class is intended to be practical in its approach. Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to bring to the attention of the instructor transportation issues of general interest that may be found in the media or other sources.

Grading:

Midterms	20 (10% each) (not cumulative)
Quizzes	10
Assignments	10
Field Trips	10
Term Paper	20
Final	30 (cumulative)
Total:	100%

There is no “forced curve” and cooperative learning is encouraged on homework assignments. Thus, it is to your benefit to help each other as much as possible. Weekly and cumulative class scores will be frequently sent to each student. You are also encouraged to contact the instructor at any time if you are having problems completing the assignments or understanding the material. You should do so as early as possible during the semester and not wait until the week before the final exam.

Assignments:

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are accepted with a penalty of fifty percent of the actual score up to one week late and only if the answers are not previously discussed in class. Put your name on your homework assignment papers and your **STUDENT NUMBER**. You should turn in the original assignment but **retain a copy for yourself** to have in class for discussion. The instructor will attempt to return homework assignments within two weeks. If you have a question regarding the grading of homework, you should bring it to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible. Unclaimed papers will be discarded after four weeks.

Cooperation and Copying:

Cooperative learning is encouraged on homework assignments. Thus, it is to your benefit to help each other as much as possible. Scores will be posted on Blackboard but providing detailed information is limited both by the Blackboard features and also federal law. You are encouraged to contact the instructor if you are having problems completing the assignments or understanding the material.

There is a difference between working with others on an assignment or project and simply copying the work done by another student. I assure you that I have had enough experience to be able to tell the difference. For a first offense, all the students involved will receive negative (not zero) the possible points on the assignment. For a second offense, students will be referred for disciplinary action as described in the SCampus Student Guidebook.

Quizzes and Examinations:

There will be a class quiz and/or assignment due at almost every class. The quiz each week will be based primarily upon two subjects: the lecture from the previous week and the reading assignment for that week. Thus, you are expected to have read the weekly assignment prior to the start of class. There is **no** make-up of missed quizzes but quizzes by the in-class students may be taken in advance of class with prior arrangements. Quiz and examination exercises are not cooperative.

Quizzes are open book and open note but closed mouth, but you should not rely too heavily on this as time is limited. You may not share books or notes. Calculators may be used in rare instances and laptop computers may be used for archival of course documents but internet access or external programs such as dictionaries may NOT be used. The final examination will be cumulative.

The format of the examinations will primarily be on scan-tron forms/ true-false or multiple choice or matching. While this may be criticized for not allowing partial credit, I have found that there is an extremely high correlation between students who do well on essay type exams and those that do well on objective tests. The very large number of questions that will be given during the semester also reduces to near zero the chance that guessing will have a significant impact on the final total points. It also helps to minimize language difficulties.

Field Trips:

There will be a series of field trips and events outside of class. You are expected to attend these are part of the course requirements. These will include:

Los Angeles Courthouse

Port of Long Beach

Metro

Other Opportunities:

Extra credit opportunities will likely exist, depending upon circumstances. Extra Credit points will be added to your score **after** the letter grade cutoffs are established (they really are extra credit). The maximum extra credit available will be an additional 5% of the total possible points.

Attendance:

Attendance is **mandatory**. Participation is considered when deciding final course grades. A student may have a personal or family medical or other emergency, have the necessity to travel for work related business, or be compelled to miss a class due to a significant university sponsored event in which the student will participate. Contact the instructor or teaching assistant as soon as the possible conflict is known and arrangements will be made to the extent possible to allow the student to timely turn in homework assignments or take a quiz before the class time.

After 35 years of teaching, I will advise you that you can expect the class to be very competitive and that the best grades consistently go to the students who “attend” each class and do the homework assignments timely.

Instructional Philosophy:

I would like to make two important points with regard to the course. First, the goal of the course is **not** about your grade. My goal in the course is to make it possible for you to learn at least as much of the subject matter as I present and as much as you want to. There is only one purpose of the quizzes and assignments and tests which is to help you learn the material and then evaluate your understanding so you can improve. If you need help with the homework, discuss it with another student or the professor. If you don't understand the material, don't worry and wander around the intellectual darkness...ask the instructor. Learning is not about competing with others, it is about doing the best you can.

Second, grading is inherently unfair. It does not measure effort. It does not measure worthiness, need or desire. It does not measure the amount of your improvement. It only measures either (a) final performance relative to a fixed standard or (b) final performance relative to others in the class. The grade is not the goal, the grade is only an outcome. Most of you will not understand this, but the grade is not important. You are IN graduate school. Your employer is not going to ask you what your grade was the class, but you may have to know the difference between federal and state regulation. It is not your grade that will determine if you can do this, it is your knowledge of the subject. But I assure you, if you get a good grade, it will reflect a very good knowledge of the material.

Personal Conflicts:

Occasionally, a student will have a personal, family, medical or other emergency, will have the necessity to travel for work related business, or will be compelled to miss a class due to a significant university sponsored event in which the student will participate. Contact the instructor as soon as the conflict is known and arrangements will be made to the extent possible to allow the student to timely turn in homework assignments.

Additional Important Information: (The “legal” stuff...what else would you expect)

Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by the instructor, and the obligation both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. The Viterbi School adheres to the University’s policies and procedures governing academic integrity described in the Student Conduct Code in section 11.00 of *Scampus*. The recommended violation sanctions are found at www.usc.edu/dept/pulibcations/SCAMPUS/gov/. Students are expected to be aware of and observe the academic integrity standards applicable to all students and will be enforced in this course. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The review process can be found at www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

Disability Services

Any student requesting academic accommodations based upon a disability is required to register with the Disability Services and Programs Office (DSPO) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSPO and should be promptly delivered to the instructor. DSPO is located in STU 301 and the telephone is 213-740-0776.

Religious Observances

On occasion a class session may conflict with a special day of religious observance. If you advise me in advance, reasonable accommodation will be made.

COURSE CALENDAR

(Subject to Random Modification at the Whim of the Instructor)

PART I THE BASICS

Date	Topic
Aug 25	Course Introduction and Introduction to Legal Principles; Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches; Statutes Codes, Regulations and Cases; Federalism
Sep 01	LABOR DAY-No Classes
Sep 08	Introduction to Legal Principles, Continued Federal and state jurisdiction, the Commerce Clause, Eminent Domain, Administrative Law Government Power to Regulate Private and Public Transportation Systems
Sep 15	Transportation Basics
Sep 22	Transportation Planning Basics

PART II TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Sep 29 Q	United States Department of Transportation The Federal Transit Administration and Federal Planning Requirements
Oct 06	California State Transportation Regulation-Regional Planning
Oct 13	California State Transportation Regulation-Continued
Oct 20	Highway and Railroad Regulation
Oct 27	Air and Water Regulation
Oct 30 5PM	Extra Credit: Visions and Voices Architects, Algorithms and Art

PART III
TRANSPORTATION CONTRACTING AND FUNDING

- Nov 03 Q Government Contracting in California
- Nov 10 Government Contracting in California cont
- Nov 17 Transportation Funding
- Nov 24 Free Speech, Disabled Access, Civil Rights

PART IV
END OF THE LINE

- Nov 27(Th) Thanksgiving
- Dec 01 Course Review
- Dec 08 Stop Day- No Classes
- Dec 15 Final Exam